

**CHILD SERVICES INFORMATION SESSION
JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

**December 16, 2004
11:00 AM, Room 605 LOB**

Representative Verla Insko, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (LOC) convened an informal information session regarding collaboration of services to children on December 16, 2004, in Room 605 of the Legislative Office Building. Collaborative members present were Dianne Irwin - DPI, Leza Wainwright – Division MHDDSAS, JoAnn Lamm - DSS, Kevin Ryan – DPH, Secretary George Sweat – DJJDP, Kirstin Frescoln – Treatment Courts, Jane Volland – Guardian Ad-Litem, Dr. Joel Rosch – State Collaboratives, Larry Wallace – Durham Collaborative, and Martha Kaufman – Durham Center.

Kory Goldsmith, Jim Klingler, Tim Hovis, Shawn Parker and Rennie Hobby provided staff support to the meeting. Attached is the Visitor Registration Sheet that is made a part of the minutes. (See Attachment No. 1)

Representative Verla Insko welcomed the group and asked Kory Goldsmith, Staff Counsel to begin the discussion by explaining the scope of work. Referencing the last meeting, Ms. Goldsmith stated that Senator Nesbitt's charge was for staff to convene the work group to determine if there was a consensus among the members and whether to recommend the creation of a high level advisory group to provide guidance and direction on the issue of cross collaboration. Ms. Goldsmith said that other complicated issues have been raised that perhaps require more study such as a shared database and consent forms. She asked the group to first consider whether to recommend the creation of a structure to provide leadership and direction for collaboration and if so, to make recommendations regarding the structure.

Ms. Goldsmith had contacted Susan Robison, Consultant with the National Conference of State Legislators, who is working on a study of emerging state structures for collaboration. She referenced excerpts from the study entitled *Organizational Strategies for Improving Human Services: Moving From Restructuring to Reform*. (See Attachment No. 2) Ms. Goldsmith highlighted the chapter on state structure that identified issues to address such as the purpose, composition, accountability, scope and scale. She also noted the structure of different states that had been included as an appendix in the report.

Representative Insko recognized Dr. Joel Rosch, State Collaborative, who had a chart to share with the group on concepts collected from other collaboratives on what the structure might look like. (See Attachment No. 3) He explained ideas outlined in the chart showing the state agency level, regional and local levels with possible functions and suggestions of what could be done at those different levels.

After discussion, the consensus of the group was to recommend the creation of a Council made up of Department heads that would report to the Legislature, and with subcommittees to study issues and report to the Council.

Issues suggested by the group for consideration included: legislative staff overseeing and communicating activities of various Legislative committees dealing with children's issues; progress report on interagency collaboration annually, housing the Council in the Department of Administration with staff; creation of Study Commission to look at what the Council will address; and solutions to funding.

Representative Insko said that staff would draft legislation and send it by email for comments prior to the January 4th meeting at 10:00 in Room 544.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Representative Verla Insko, Co-Chair

Rennie Hobby, Committee Assistant